**Non-utilisation of funds for maintenance of NHs**

752. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of the roads, specially of the National Highways, in the country is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 50 per cent of total annual allocation is spent on maintenance of these roads;

(c) if so, the assessment of Government regarding the expenditure of above allocation on various heads; and

(d) Government's proposal regarding full utilisation of allocated amounts in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) All efforts are made to maintain the National Highways in traffic worthy condition.

(b) There has been a shortfall of around 40% in the allocation for maintenance of roads.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Full utilisation of allocated amount is made every years.

**Upgradation of NHs in North-Eastern Region**

753. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the period of completion of the proposed Mega Project of Integrated National Highway;

(b) the amount of fund to be spent to complete the Mega Project;

(c) whether Government are preparing for upgrading the existing National Highways in the North-Eastern Region to have connection with Mega Project of the Integrated National Highway;

(d) the name of the National Highways of the North-Eastern Region which are to be upgraded; and

(e) the amount of fund to be spent in this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) By March, 2009 according to present assessment.

(b) Estimated cost of the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) is about Rs. 54,000 crores.

(c) and (d) The tentative alignment of the corridor in the state of Assam is as follow:—

| NH No. | Section |
|---|---|
| 54 | Silchar-Daboka |
| 36 | Daboka-Nowgong |
| 37 | Nowgong-Guwahati |
| 31 | Guwahati to Assam/West Bengal Border |

(e) About Rs. 1000 crores.

**Construction of New Ports**

754. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to construct new ports to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set up for constructing new Ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A new port at Ennore, 25 kms. north of Chennai, is being constructed at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 927.10 crores with assistance from Asian Development Bank with a capacity to handle 16 million tonnes of coal. The port is expected to be commissioned by July, 2000.

Steps have also been taken to create additional capacity in the existing major ports under various Plan schemes to meet the growing demand of the trade.